



Chairman Welborn and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jerry Davis and I will be representing the Montana Bowhunters Association during this testimony.

Much as we would like to support HB 512, MBA will reluctantly be opposing it.

First this bill as written appears not to conform to existing regulations. Line 20 on page one gives criteria to be met if a person is to use a closed road on state land to retrieve game. That individual "must possess a resident or nonresident license and appropriate permit or tag ...." Possess means that the hunter must have possession of the tag on their person. Though somewhat of a technicality existing regulations require that the tag be on the game animal at the time it is taken. Therefore a person would be in violation of this proposed law because the tag would not be in their possession while traveling to retrieve the animal.

This bill also discriminates against people because of an age limit. Though the noble intent of this bill is to help those of us that are aging and do not have the strength and stamina we once had, it does not consider hunters who may be less than 60 and also have physical limitations.

We also fear this bill will lead to abuse or misunderstanding by those that do not meet the age criteria. We are sure that some uninformed hunters may interpret seeing an individual retrieving game on a closed road as it being legal for all persons to retrieve game on that road.

Finally, leaving these roads closed during hunting season to all traffic helps with maintaining a quality hunting experience for all. This bill will have a negative effect on that quality hunting experience.

For these reasons we ask that you vote "do not pass" on HB 512

Thank you,

Jerry Davis

MBA